Pentandria and order *Monogynia.* Its natural affinities place it among the *Aggregatæ* of Linnæus and the *Caprifolia* of Jussieu. It is characterized by a *monopetalous, five-lobed, unequal corolla; a calyx as long as the corolla; and a berry with three cells and three seeds.* The species *perfoliatum* differs from the rest in having its *leaves connate, and its flowers sessile and whorled.*

The root of this plant is perennial and subdivided into numerous horizontal branches. The stem is erect, hairy, fistulous, round, from one to four feet high. The leaves are opposite, the pairs crossing each other, connate, ovate, acuminate, entire, rather flat, abruptly contracted at base into a sort of neck, resembling a winged petiole. This portion varies in width, as Michaux has expressed it, "foliis latius, angustiusve connatis." In general it is narrow when the plant is in flower, as represented in the figure; and wider when it is in fruit. The flowers are axillary, sessile, five or six in a whorl, the upper ones generally in a single pair. Each axil is furnished with two or three linear bractes. The calyx consists of five segments which are spreading, oblong-linear coloured, unequal, persistent. Corolla tubular, curving, of a dull brownish purple, covered with minute hairs, its base gibbous, its border open and